

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A gland plate comprising a rigid, ~~disk-shaped~~ annular element ~~comprising, the element comprising:~~
at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm; and
at least one orifice formed in the at least one radially extending wall and defined by an axially extending circumferential flange.
2. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein ~~said element~~ the at least one radially extending wall comprises two axially spaced, radially extending walls.
3. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 2 wherein said element further comprises inner and outer circumferential walls extending between said radially extending walls.
4. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 3 wherein said element is a hollow structure.
5. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 3 wherein said element is filled with concrete, plastics or water.
6. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said at least one wall is made of metal.
7. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 6 wherein said at least one wall is formed by a pressing operation.

8. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1, further comprising: a first part providing a first radially extending wall and a second part providing a second radially extending wall, said first radially extending wall being axially spaced from said second radially extending wall.

9. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 8 wherein said first and second parts together provide inner and outer circumferential walls.

10. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein the gland plate is provided with one or more through holes.

11. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 10 wherein each of said through holes is formed by a pressing or punching operation.

12. (Previously presented) A gland plate according to claim 11 wherein material displaced when each of said holes is being formed provides a strengthening support around said hole.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A sealing arrangement, comprising:
a gland plate comprising a rigid, ~~disk-shaped~~ annular element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm; and
at least one orifice formed in the at least one radially extending wall and defined by an axially extending circumferential flange.

15. (Currently amended) A mechanical seal, comprising:

a gland plate comprising a rigid, ~~disk-shaped~~ annular element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm; and
at least one orifice formed in the at least one radially extending wall and defined by an axially extending circumferential flange.

16. (New) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein the element comprises:
an annular first component having a radially extending wall with a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm, an axially extending inner circumferential wall, an axially extending outer circumferential wall and at least one orifice, wherein the at least one orifice is formed in the radially extending wall of the first component and defined by an axially extending circumferential flange;

a corresponding annular second component having a radially extending wall with a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm, an axially extending inner circumferential wall, an axially extending outer circumferential wall and at least one orifice, wherein the at least one orifice is formed in the radially extending wall of the second component and defined by an axially extending circumferential flange;

wherein, when the respective inner circumferential walls and respective outer circumferential walls of the first and second components are brought into juxtaposition and held in engagement to form a hollow, annular structure, the respective orifices of the first and second components are aligned to form at least one bolt hole and the respective circumferential flanges of the first and second components abut.

17. (New) A gland plate according to claim 16 wherein the respective inner circumferential walls and respective outer circumferential walls of the first and second components are held in engagement by crimping, adhering, chemically bonding and/or welding the walls together.

18. (New) A gland plate according to claim 16 wherein each of the circumferential flanges of the first and second components comprises an end face such that the end faces of the respective circumferential flanges abut.

19. (New) A gland plate according to claim 16 further comprising a means for feeding fluid through the gland plate.

20. (New) A gland plate according to claim 19 wherein the means for feeding fluid through the gland plate comprises a sealed orifice formed in the inner circumferential wall, a sealed orifice formed in the outer circumferential wall and a pipe arranged within the hollow, annular structure and extending between the sealed orifices in the inner and outer circumferential walls.